MODULE SPECIFICATION

1. **Title of the module**
   Dissertation: Practice as Research (LCDSPG11)

2. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**
   London Contemporary Dance School

3. **Start date of the module**
   September 2015

4. **The number of students expected to take the module**
   10 - 30

5. **Modules to be withdrawn on the introduction of this proposed module and consultation with other relevant Schools and Faculties regarding the withdrawal**
   MACD1 Dissertation

6. **The level of the module**
   7

7. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**
   60

8. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**
   1, 2 or 3

9. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**
   Research Lab is a co-requisite Module

10. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**
    Postgraduate Diploma/ Masters in Contemporary Dance
11. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes**

**Upon successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate:**

11.1 a range and depth of reference which confirms a serious, critical engagement with the aspect of dance being investigated, and with current issues in contemporary dance and related arts

11.2 the ability to sustain and coherently develop an argument or central idea

11.3 well-organised and methodological sophistication in the research process

11.4 a confident and mature approach to relevant literature

11.5 independent, creative thought

11.6 the ability to analyse and evaluate creative practice

11.7 significant individual personal and professional development

11.8 the ability to investigate and develop their own distinctive strengths and qualities as dance artists and/or to analyse and critically evaluate such strengths and qualities shown in the work of others.

12. **The intended generic learning outcomes**

**Upon successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate:**

12.1 critical, analytical and practical skills

12.2 applied creative and imaginative skills

12.3 the capacity to analyse and critically examine diverse forms of discourse

12.4 reflexive and independent thinking

12.5 sustaining concentration and focus for extended periods

12.6 awareness of interdisciplinary approaches to study and the capacity to engage with different theories or paradigms of knowledge

12.7 developing ideas and constructing arguments and the capacity to present them in appropriate ways

12.8 producing written work with appropriate scholarly conventions

12.9 information retrieval skills, involving the ability to gather, sift, synthesise an organise material independently and critically evaluate its significance

12.10 managing personal workloads and meeting deadlines.

13. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The Dissertation: Practice as Research module is designed to enable students to pursue particular interests and concerns which may have been stimulated by or developed during previous modules on the postgraduate programme, in the form of high quality, independent research which is led by their creative practice. Students who wish to pursue research which is not related to the areas of study followed during the PGDip will need to evidence sufficient experience in that area before proposals are accepted.

Students who wish to progress to the MA degree and who choose the 60 credit Practice as Research Module must have previously passed modules to a total of 120 credits, including the required Module: Research Lab. The 60 credit Practice as Research Module will be a mixed-mode independent project combining both practical and written
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elements, normally with these elements interwoven. Modes of presentation may include film, portfolio submissions, blogs and/or more traditional academic writing. The form of these Dissertations must be discussed and planned in advance with the proposals clearly setting out the agreed format of delivery.

The writing, regardless of the mode of presentation chosen, must evidence a sophisticated level of reflection on practice; in all cases, including presentations, students are expected to provide research evidence and supporting materials in the form of a Bibliography.

Academic dissertations will be of 7-8,000 words (submissions 10% above or below are acceptable); alternative modes of delivery will carry an equivalent weighting.

Research topics are formally agreed following acceptance of formal written proposals which are considered by the Research Panel at LCDS (currently the Head of Postgraduate Research, the Head of Choreography, the Assistant Director and the Director of Postgraduate Programmes).

During the Postgraduate Diploma programme, students will have attended a series of lectures on study skills and practice-based research techniques as part of the Module: Research Lab. These lectures will also support students as they prepare to submit formal research proposals. As they begin work on this Module, students who return to study following a period of intermission may attend further lectures on appropriate research methodologies, academic skills, and bibliographic and style conventions if they need a revision opportunity.

Tutors are available to give feedback on draft proposals; once students have registered for the Module they receive ongoing support from a designated supervisor, alongside other faculty members such as the Learning Resources Manager and the Academic Support Tutor, as necessary. Practice as Research projects are supervised internally by relevant tutors on the LCDS faculty, supplemented by external professionals as appropriate.

Period of study:

Students may continue from the PGDip directly to the Practice as Research Module, or can defer the commencement of this final research project. For both full-time and part-time students, all projects must be completed within six years from the initial date of registration for PGDip. Regulations for Overseas students are determined by the UK Border Agency and are subject to change; at the time of writing there is a requirement for all overseas students to study full-time and complete the MA in 4 terms. Students should make certain to check the requirements of their particular visas.
14. **Indicative Reading List**


15. **Learning and Teaching Methods, including the nature and number of contact hours and the total study hours which will be expected of students, and how these relate to achievement of the intended module learning outcomes**

Formal supervision meetings (11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.8, 12.3, 12.6, 12.7, 12.10) **20 hours**

Attendance at Lectures (11.1, 11.4, 11.6, 11.8, 12.3, 12.6, 12.7) **10 hours**

Independent study (11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 12.10) **570 hours**

**Total 600 learning hours**

16. **Assessment methods and how these relate to testing achievement of the intended module learning outcomes**

Practice as research dissertation 7-8,000 words, or equivalent submission as agreed.

(submissions 10% above or below are acceptable)

Plus evidence of a substantial practical element (11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 12.10) **100%**

17. **Implications for learning resources, including staff, library, IT and space**

The module will be resourced through existing school resources.
18. The Collaborative Partner recognises and has embedded the expectations of current disability equality legislation, and supports students with a declared disability or special educational need in its teaching. Within this module we will make reasonable adjustments wherever necessary, including additional or substitute materials, teaching modes or assessment methods for students who have declared and discussed their learning support needs. Arrangements for students with declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the Collaborative Partner’s disability/dyslexia support service, and specialist support will be provided where needed.

19. Campus(es) or Centre(s) where module will be delivered:
   London Contemporary Dance School

   If the module is part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution, please complete sections 20 and 21. If the module is not part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution these sections can be deleted.

20. Partner College/Validated Institution:
    London Contemporary Dance School

21. University School responsible for the programme:
    School of Arts